

ELEVATE STUDENT MINISTRIES

First UMC of Winter Park
125 N. Interlachen Ave
Winter Park Fl 32789



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ELEVATE Student Ministry Staff

Church Office 407-644-2906
<http://www.elevatesm.org>

ANDY CARTEE
Director of Student Ministries
Student Line: 321-287-7707
E-Mail: AndyC@fumcwp.org
AIM: autigr633

SUNNY WILMOT
Programs Administrative Asst.
E-Mail: SunnyW@fumcwp.org



LAURA-GRACE ANDERSON
Sunday School Coordinator
E-Mail: calganderson@cfl.rr.com

CHRIS SELL
Asst. Director of Student Ministries
E-Mail: ChrisS@fumcwp.org
AIM: baycyde

**SCOTT "MR. G"
GINCHEREAU**
Counselor
E-Mail: mrgsmath@cfl.rr.com

EVANNE MINES
Sunday School Coordinator
E-Mail: elmines@cfl.rr.com

Elevate Student Ministries



DEC 2007-JAN 2008

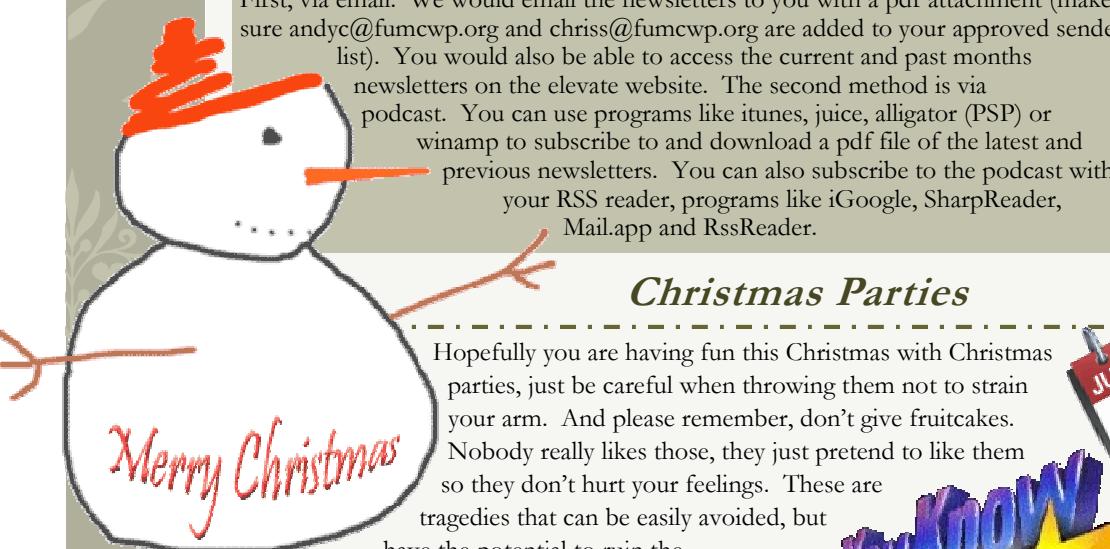
Newsletter Podcast/Email

We are so excited about this announcement. First UMC of Winter Park has been in the process of going "green" and we (ELEVATE) think it's a pretty good idea. God put us in charge of the animals, and the plant life, so it's our job to take care of them. Starting with the new year we will be launching two new systems of receiving your monthly newsletter: Email and podcast. **The Bottom Line:** Email Chris (ChrisS@fumcwp.org) with a list of the email address(es) to which you would like to receive your email newsletter or if you would like to subscribe to the podcast/rss feed. **ALSO,** say whether or not you would like to still receive the newsletter via SNAIL MAIL. I ask you to PLEASE follow up with this so we can start conserving paper and putting the money normally used for postage to other good uses in Student Ministries. You can always email us later and change back if you don't like it. For more information on these systems:

First, via email. We would email the newsletters to you with a pdf attachment (make sure andyc@fumcwp.org and chriss@fumcwp.org are added to your approved sender list). You would also be able to access the current and past months newsletters on the elevate website. The second method is via podcast. You can use programs like itunes, juice, alligator (PSP) or winamp to subscribe to and download a pdf file of the latest and previous newsletters. You can also subscribe to the podcast with your RSS reader, programs like iGoogle, SharpReader, Mail.app and RssReader.



Christmas Parties



Hopefully you are having fun this Christmas with Christmas parties, just be careful when throwing them not to strain your arm. And please remember, don't give fruitcakes. Nobody really likes those, they just pretend to like them so they don't hurt your feelings. These are tragedies that can be easily avoided, but have the potential to ruin the Christmas season.



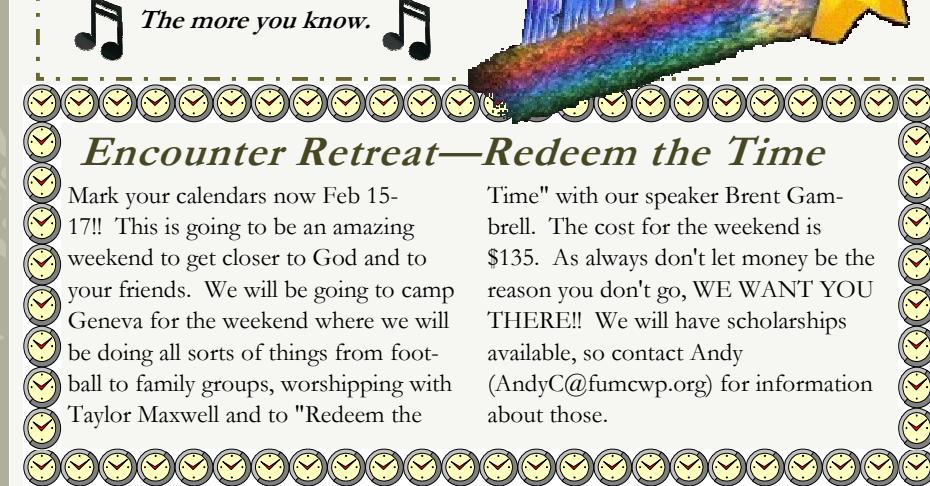
You can now get the ELEVATE Calendar online. Just go to:
<http://calendar.elevatesm.org>

NO ELEVATE

We will not be having ELEVATE on December 23rd and 30th because of ...you guessed it, Christmas and New Years. Also, beginning the week following the Christmas party (Dec 17), regularly scheduled activities will be suspended until the new year, except HS girls group, check with Sunny for specifics. So no ELEVATE, bible studies, small groups or planning meeting.

Encounter Retreat—Redeem the Time

Mark your calendars now Feb 15-17!! This is going to be an amazing weekend to get closer to God and to your friends. We will be going to camp Geneva for the weekend where we will be doing all sorts of things from football to family groups, worshipping with Taylor Maxwell and to "Redeem the



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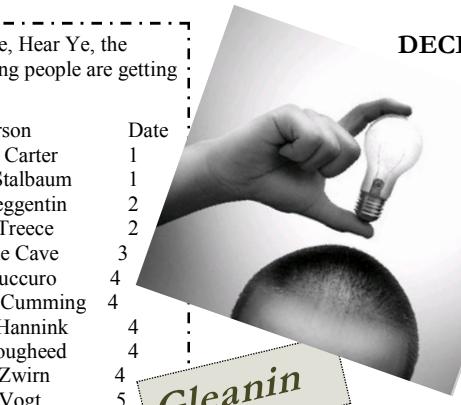
FUN FACTS:

- The average chocolate bar has 8 insect legs in it.
- Americans on the average eat 18 acres of pizza every day.
- American Airlines saved \$40,000 in 1987 by eliminating one olive from each salad in first class.
- According to sales, 17,000 individual 'smarties' are eaten every minute in the UK.
- In Sweden there is a ski-thru McDonalds.
- The Coca-Cola company is the biggest consumer of sugar in the world.
- Orcas (killer whales) kill sharks by torpedo-ing up into the shark's stomach from underneath, causing the shark to explode.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, the following people are getting old:

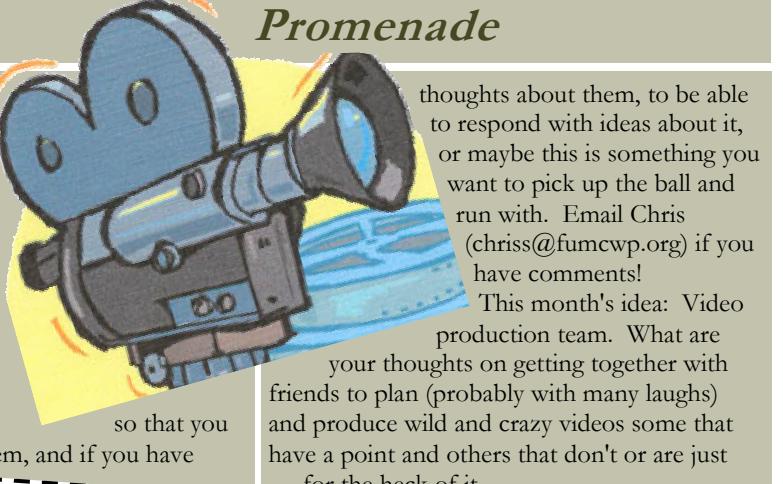
Old Person	Date
Brooke Carter	1
Ethan Stalbaum	1
Paul Reggentin	2
Logan Trece	2
Caroline Cave	3
Amy Cuccuro	3
Kelsey Cumming	4
Jalena Hannink	4
Julia Lougheed	4
Nicole Zwirn	4
Jordan Vogt	5
Alex Bogdon	5
Tori Grabe	6
Tyler Evans	7
Rowland Pettit	7
Scott Sidebottom	7
Jennifer McCauley	9
Robert Rickey	9
Skye Wilmot	9
Laura-Grace Anderson	10
Lauren Gassie	10
Charlie Zoebelain	11
Brant Delongy	12
Bobby Frantz	12
Kristin Gallagher	13
Brad Scripps	14
Anna Beth Jager	15
Nick Loperena	15
Evanne Mines	15
Ashley Tobin	15
Patrick Tobin	15
Ches Magruder	16
Alison Bonay	17
Alison Bondy	17
Bryan Gettys	17
Jillian Gizzzi	18
Jessica Andrews	19
Jeff Snodgrass	19
Clay Colling	20
Maris Grantham	20
Edward Lock	20
Holly Perreault	20
Paige Baldocchi	21
Jay Nisbett	21
Patrick Ziarnowski	21
Keith LeCher	22
Derrick Loftus	22
Amanda George	23
Noelle Orr	23
Natalie Bunnell	25
Samantha Evans	25
Callie Wilson	25
Jared Rivers	27
Amelia Storer	27
Madeline King	28
Ryan West	28
Dylan Banes	29
Ginna Leftwich	29
Lauren Coward	31
January	
Valerie Pettit	2
Caitlin Curry	4
Allison Groszek	4
Phillip Carlton	5
Peter Vandendriessche	5
Melissa Foca	6
Chelsie Holler	6
Charlie Kelly	6
Victoria Marks	6
Michael Saxton	6
Michael Strange	6
Tracy Matheson	8
Alex Wilstrup	8

DECEMBER—JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Ideas

This is the newest idea from ELEVATE Student Ministries. We know that God works at the church, but just as much He is working in each of your lives. So we will be throwing out new ideas and thoughts into a new section of the newsletter called the Idea Promenade



thoughts about them, to be able to respond with ideas about it, or maybe this is something you want to pick up the ball and run with. Email Chris (chriss@fumcwp.org) if you have comments!

This month's idea: Video production team. What are your thoughts on getting together with friends to plan (probably with many laughs) and produce wild and crazy videos some that have a point and others that don't or are just for the heck of it.

S.L.T. Meeting

We plan games, we plan messages, we plan gross and disgusting stuff that will make you wonder who's the poor unfortunate soul that'll be partaking, and we need your help to continue on in this direction or even to give us ideas to take us in a new direction. Whatever it is we're here to connect with God and see where He's leading us. We meet in the ELEVATE of-

This is where all the action is! Do you have questions about God? Do you want to get closer to God? Are you just confused by God and what He wants? Well AIM groups is a place where you can ask tough questions, discuss hard topics and things that you've wondered about and through all the questioning, discussing and considering you'll get closer to the God of the Universe who created us and loves us.

All Middle Schoolers - Thursday evenings 6-8PM in the 3rd floor lounge above the gym. Chris, Kristi McCoy and Donna Bailey lead this group

High School Guys - Wednesday evenings in the ELEVATE office. Andy leads this

6-8PM group
10-12 Grade Girls - Tuesday morning 6:30AM at Carol Smith's house (SunnyW@fumcwp.org for more info). Sunny and Carol Smith lead this group
If you are interested in leading a 9 grade girls, an evening girls or any other AIM group, let Andy (AndyC@fumcwp.org) or Chris (ChrisS@fumcwp.org) know!



We have some awesome counselors at ELEVATE, and in the top of those ranks stands a man new to the scene, maybe you've seen him hangin' around. Well, I thought I'd introduce you to a guy that's recently become a good friend of mine, Bryan Gettys.

Chris: How old are you?
Bryan: 21, I'll be 22 on Dec 17
C: Well, Happy Birthday then. Where did you come from?
B: Illinois baby, we don't pronounce the "s" in Illinois
C: Thanks for the English lesson. What was the last song you sang

when no one else was around?
B: I think it was "Over my shoulder" by Mika

C: If you were a crayon, what color would you be and why?
B: I would be red, 'cause it's my favorite color
C: How would your friend describe you to someone who has never seen you?
B: Maybe funny and energetic, athletic and nice
C: What's the best costume you've ever worn?

B: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that my mom made me, by far, I think I was Michelangelo
C: Nice, I was Donatello at least a couple year in there. Does your chewing gum lose its flavor on the bedpost overnight?
B: I would never put my chewing gum on the bedpost overnight, ever, that's just so gross
C: What was the best thing before sliced bread?
B: Probably pop-ices, I really dig 'em, pink, red and grape are my favorite flavors
C: I love how "pink" and "red"

DECEMBER 2007 – JANUARY 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 6-8PM ELEVATE	3	4	5	6	7	1 8 8AM Gleaning
9 6-8PM ELEVATE	10 5PM SLT	11	12	13	14	15
16 3PM Christmas Party	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 NO ELEVATE	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 NO ELEVATE	31	January 1	2	3	4	5
6 6-8PM ELEVATE	7 5PM SLT	8	9	10	11	12
13 6-8PM ELEVATE	14 5PM SLT	15	16	17	18	19 8AM Gleaning
20 6-8PM ELEVATE	21 5PM SLT	22	23	24	25	26
27 6-8PM ELEVATE	28 5PM SLT	29	30	31		

elevate
STUDENT MINISTRIES

Andy's Message

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says "Pray without ceasing." Doesn't this command from Paul seem impossible? I know that I don't pray constantly. I am quite sure that the vast majority of Christians don't either. That makes me feel as though I just can't live up to the standard. And I probably never will.

But Paul is not Greek. He is Hebrew, and in Hebrew there are more than 40 different words for prayer. English and Greek are, unfortunately, abbreviated languages when it comes to prayer. We have but one word, and that word often carries with it a particular meaning associated with the formal prayers of worship. When you think about "Let us pray," you probably think of the congregation bowing their heads while some pastor invokes eloquent words toward heaven. You may



Christmas Time is Here...

In case you missed the memo, Christmas is coming up! Ya know...that time of the year where we hear Santa at the mall ringing the bell for the salvation army (not only does Santa give presents to all good boys and girls, but he also works for the salvation army too, man what a generous fella), miniature lights are all over houses and supposedly it gets cold, yeah that's all because of our man Jesus, it's His birthday. So go home, be with family and eat some food. Merry Christmas!

middle of an attitude of thanksgiving, set in the context of commitment to others, then how do you suppose this kind of praying will come about? Do you suppose it will be a constant stream of silent words sent toward heaven? Or is it more likely that it will be displayed in the other 39 words in Hebrew thought used for praying? Those words include weeping, crying, dancing, blessing, lifting, calling, summoning, entreating, groaning, roaring, praising, confessing, meditating, declaring, remembering, counting, and a dozen more actions that belong to everyday life. In other words, prayer is not a specific religious ritual as much as it is a lifestyle that permeates all our thoughts, words and deeds. In fact, if praying happens continuously in all that you do, you will experience the reality that work, school and worship are the same word in Hebrew. You will live in prayer because you will be in constant connection with God, even if it is in dancing, crying, declaring, meditating or all the rest.

The original manuscripts of the Bible have no chapter and verse numbers. We added those later! Erase them. Then read this again. You will discover that it is the middle of one continuous thought. Rejoice always, pray without gaps, in everything give thanks. That's the whole picture.

If you think of that picture in your mind then the meaning kind changes. (Read Thessalonians 12-15). If praying without gaps is the

As you go throughout your days may you live a life of 24/7 worship that brings Glory to the God who loves you so very much!!

10th-12th Grade Christmas Brunch

Hey Girls! We are having a 10th-12th Grade Christmas Brunch. Wow, now that's a title! This awesome time of fellowship and fun to celebrate son. All 10th-12th grade girls are welcome to attend. Food will be provided but all girls are asked to RSVP and bring a girly gift (under \$5) for a white elephant gift exchange. It will be held at the Cooper's home. Hope to see you all there! - Sunny. Contact me at sunnyw@fumcwp.org for questions and details.

Girls Bible Study is going to be an the Christmas sea- will be provided but -